

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 857

Calling on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to take immediate actions to drop all charges against the Saudi rape victim known as the “Qatif Girl”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 11, 2007

Ms. SHEA-PORTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Calling on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to take immediate actions to drop all charges against the Saudi rape victim known as the “Qatif Girl”.

Whereas in 2006, an anonymous 19-year-old Saudi woman from Saudi Arabia’s eastern province of Qatif was attacked by seven Saudi men and gang-raped;

Whereas the woman, known to Saudi media as the “Qatif Girl”, initiated a legal complaint against her attackers;

Whereas later in 2006 the “Qatif Girl” was sentenced by the Saudi courts to six months in jail and 90 lashes for being alone in a car with a man she was not related to at the time she was attacked;

Whereas she appealed that ruling and the judges ruled on her appeal on November 13, 2007, increasing her sentence to 200 lashes and six months in jail;

Whereas according to press reporting, the judges informed the rape victim that they increased her punishment because of “her attempt to aggravate and influence the judiciary through the media”;

Whereas in response to an American reporter’s question on November 20, 2007, Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal pledged that “the Saudi judiciary will review the case”;

Whereas Saudi government authorities have ordered the woman, her lawyer, and her husband to stop talking to the press and have refused to provide the woman or her husband with a copy of the verdict in her case, further delaying the appellate process;

Whereas the trial and conviction of the “Qatif Girl” will dissuade future victims of rape from coming forth to accuse their attackers; and

Whereas the Saudi law forbidding a woman from being alone in a car with men she is not related to is an anachronistic assault on women’s dignity and should be abolished: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the United States House of Rep-
2 resentatives—

3 (1) condemns the Saudi judiciary for convicting
4 the “Qatif Girl” on the anachronistic charge of
5 being alone in a car with a man she is not related

1 to, as well as for the inhumane punishment to which
2 she was sentenced;

3 (2) calls on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to
4 take immediate action to overturn the conviction and
5 sentence and to drop all charges against the Saudi
6 rape victim known as the “Qatif Girl”;

7 (3) urges the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to take
8 the steps necessary to ensure that victims of rape
9 are not penalized for bringing forth allegations
10 against their attackers;

11 (4) calls upon the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to
12 abolish its law forbidding a woman from being alone
13 in a car with men she is not related to, as well as
14 other laws that compromise women’s freedom, dig-
15 nity, and equality; and

16 (5) expresses sympathy for the “Qatif Girl” for
17 her physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her
18 rapists and of the Saudi judicial system.

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